



PRESS RELEASE

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**Mental health issues in Hernando County to be discussed at Community Forum**

BROOKSVILLE, HERNANDO COUNTY—The Hernando County Health Care Advisory Board is conducting a Mental Health Issues Community Forum at Brooksville Regional Hospital on Monday, May 4, 2009 from 8:30 to 12:30 a.m.

“During our most recent community needs assessment, it became clear that mental health issues and concerns were prevalent, and that we needed to do something about it,” said Jeff Feller, COO of WellFlorida Council and lead staff on the Hernando County Health Care Advisory Board. “The Forum is a venue for learning from each other about the impact of mental health on our community and forming a vision of the work that needs to be done in Hernando County.”

The Forum will begin with a brief presentation of mental health data of the county followed by panel discussions. Panelists will discuss how mental health issues impact the area that he or she represents. Key areas are: Survivors, caregivers and advocates; acute care and specialty hospitals; law enforcement and judiciary; mental health service providers; and local and state government.

“The panel discussions allow cross sections of the community to share how mental health issues affect them. From this we can get the big picture of mental health in Hernando County,” Feller said.

The Forum will conclude with a brainstorming session and a summary of the next steps.

The community is invited to attend and participate. Refreshments will be served.

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